

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 8, 2002 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In response, the present Amendment revises claims 1 and 2, and also condenses the Abstract, as required in Section 3 of the Office Action. Additionally, a paper entitled "Proposed Drawing Changes" is being submitted concurrently in response to the drawing objection in Section 2 of the Office Action.

Section 4 of the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 for anticipation by Hunt et al's US Patent 5,781,892, (which will hereafter be called simply "Hunt"). The Hunt reference is directed to a reservation system for use by a travel agent. In Hunt's Figure 1 (the same Figure that is reproduced on the cover sheet of the reference), client computers 12 are coupled to a server computer 14, which runs a gateway application 22. The server 14 communicates with computer reservation systems (CRS's) via communication links 16. In Hunt's system, a user command generated by a travel agent at a client computer 12 is received by the server 14, which then generates a request in response to the command for transmission to a computer reservation system (see column 2, lines 16-20 and column 3, lines 33-39). The server 14 processes datasets received from the computer reservation system and returns the processed data to the client computer 12 (column 3, lines 44-48). The server 14 serves to compile or decompile the reservation system's code languages. In other words, the travel agent at Hunt's client computer 12 might be said to interact "indirectly" with the compute reservation system with the aid of Hunt's server 14.

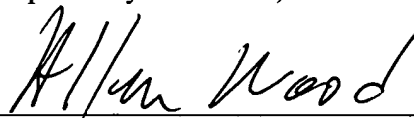
In contrast, an in-house user in the system shown in Figure 3 of the present application's drawings uses a PC to acquire Internet addresses of reservation systems from a net server. The in-house user then selects one of the reservation systems and uses the PC to interact with the selected computer reservation system via the Internet for making a reservation without the mediation of the net server (see the passage at page 11 of the application, line 4 to page 12, line 3). Thereafter, the personal computer compiles the reservation information from the reservation system to generate booking data, which is then sent to the net server. In response, the net server communicates with the reservation system and a ticket is printed.

Independent claim 1 recites the step of "sending...address information" of a reservation system from a local computer to a personal computer via a network. Later, claim 1 recites the step of "connecting said personal computer to the selected reservation system via the Internet" and the step of "transmitting and receiving information including a booking number via the Internet between said personal computer and said selected reservation system." After booking data is generated and sent "to said local computer via said network," claim 1 recites the step of "transmitting, from said local computer, data including said booking number within said booking data to said selected reservation system" via a communication line. It is respectfully submitted that these steps are neither disclosed nor suggested by Hunt's arrangement for permitting a travel agent to communicate indirectly with a reservation system via a server. In particular, the reference does not suggest a ticketing system in which communication between a first computer and a second computer is conducted by way of a network, communication between the second computer and the reservation system by way of the Internet, further communication between the first and second computers by way of the network, and then communication between the first computer and the reservation system.

Although independent claim 2 is an apparatus claim rather than a method claim, like claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by claim 2 is patentable over the reference for reasons along the lines discussed above.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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AW:tlc
Attachments

ATTACHMENT A

This attachment includes a copy of a paragraph that is being rewritten in the present amendment, with brackets being used to identify deletions from the previous version of the rewritten paragraph and with underlining being used to identify additions to the previous version.

Please rewrite the Abstract, appearing on page 20 of the application, so that it reads as follows:

A [ticket booking and issuing] ticketing method [is provided wherein booking and issuing of] that permits a plane ticket or the like [can] to be easily [performed with] obtained via an in-house system. A ticket booking service request is sent to a net server from a PC through a LAN. Then, an airline company selection screen is sent from the net server to the PC in response [to the request]. When an airline company is selected from among the airlines displayed on the PC, a connection is established to a [corresponding] ticket reservation system of the selected airline company through the Internet. [Information data] Data for the ticket booking is sent to the net server from the PC. The ticket booking data [such as a ticket booking number] is sent to a ticket booking and issuing terminal from the net server[. The ticket booking data is also sent], and then to the reservation system [from the ticket booking and issuing terminal] through a dedicated line. The booked ticket is issued from a ticket issuing printer on the basis of the ticket issuing data supplied from the reservation system.

ATTACHMENT B – CLAIM CHANGES

This attachment includes claims that are being rewritten in the present Amendment, with brackets being used to identify deletions from the previous version of the rewritten claims and with underlining being used to identify additions to the previous version.

1. (Amended) A booking and issuing method of a ticket booking and issuing system including a reservation system for accepting ticket booking requests via a communication line, a local computer being interconnected to said reservation system via said communication line to issue the tickets booked in said reservation system, and a personal computer being interconnected to said local computer via a network and having an Internet connection function, comprising the steps of:

addressing a ticket booking commencement request to said local computer from said personal computer;

sending information relating to said reservation system and address information of said reservation system from said local computer to said personal computer via said network in accordance with said ticket booking commencement request;

storing, in said personal computer, the information sent from said local computer into a memory for displaying said information relating to said reservation system on a screen for selection;

reading out, in said personal computer, the address of the reservation system that is selected on said screen for selection from said memory; [for connecting to the selected reservation system via the Internet];

connecting said personal computer to the selected reservation system via the Internet;

transmitting and receiving information including a booking number via the Internet between said personal computer and said selected reservation system;

generating, in said personal computer, booking data by compiling predetermined data within the information transmitted and received in said transmitting and receiving step into a predetermined form and sending the generated booking data to said local computer via said network; [and]

transmitting, [in] from said local computer, data including said booking number within said booking data to said selected reservation system via said communication line [for issuing the tickets booked in said reservation system.]; and

issuing, by said local computer, the ticket booked in said reservation system.

2. (Amended) A ticket booking and issuing system including a reservation system for accepting ticket booking requests via a communication line, a local computer being interconnected to said reservation system via said communication line to issue the tickets booked in said reservation system, and a personal computer being interconnected to said local computer via a network and having an Internet connection function, comprising:

addressing means for addressing a ticket booking commencement request to said local computer from said personal computer;

sending means for sending information relating to said reservation system and address information of said reservation system from said local computer to said personal computer via said network in accordance with said ticket booking commencement request;

storing means for storing, in said personal computer, the information sent from said local computer into a memory for displaying said information relating to said reservation system on a screen for selection;

reading means for reading out, in said personal computer, the address of the reservation system that is selected on said screen for selection from said memory for connecting said personal computer to the selected reservation system via the Internet;

transmitting and receiving means for transmitting and receiving information including a booking number via the Internet between said personal computer and said selected reservation system;

generating means for generating, in said personal computer, booking data by compiling predetermined data within the information transmitted and received in said transmitting and receiving step into a predetermined form and sending the generated booking data to said local computer via said network; [and]

transmitting means for transmitting, [in] from said local computer, data including said booking number within said booking data to said selected reservation system via said communication line [for issuing the tickets booked in said reservation system.]; and

issuing means for issuing the ticket booked in said reservation system, said issuing means being provided in said local computer.